

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I am writing on behalf of the Social Justice Committee of the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists who consistent with the principles and practices of our Unitarian Universalist faith believe in the democratic process and believe that the further concentration of corporate media will lead us for further cookie cutter telecommunications. Not only should Commissioner Powell's Proposed Rules be voted down as anti-democratic and seriously misguided. If 99% of your responses are against this it is the truly disappointing that Mr. Powell cannot even delay this vote. Due to our already corporatized media (Network TV) who do not cover this vital issue, only 72% know this decision which effects each of our citizens is happening. Why is the U.S. so isolated from the rest of the world regarding issues of war and peace-our corporate media-it is so clear to everyone that whoever controls your information controls the future-we implore you as members of the faith of Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Adams and many of our enlightened forefathers who would spin in their graves over this FCC proposed rule passing, I appeal to the highest parts of your self and vote for democracy and against these rules. The airwaves are a precious public resource of the citizens, not the corporate media.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,  
Respectfully,  
Cynthia Johnson on behalf of  
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